## III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 9, and 12 are amended.  Claims 17-18 are new. Claims 1-2, 5-12, and 17-18 are pending.

2. Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 12 are not anticipated by Stern et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,935,249) under 35 U.S.C. $102(e).

Claims 1, 9, and 12 are amended to recite the external unit provides an address for downloading of the driver.  This is not disclosed or suggested by Stern.

In Applicant's invention, the driver is comprised in control means used to modify one or more commands received into a format required by the external unit.  Stern does not disclose or suggest the use of downloaded and signature verified drivers for the control of an external unit.

Stern discloses a Java Enabled Network Interface Device.  The interface device is provided in association with a host computer. The interface device comprises a processor, a volatile and a non-volatile memory.  The interface device acts as a proxy between the host computer and a remote server.  The interface device is loaded with a Java virtual machine.  The Java virtual machine is loaded securely and the boot loader verifies that the virtual machine code has not been hampered.  The verification is performed using a digital signature of the virtual machine provider.  The virtual machine controls access to a network, and resources within the interface device.  Such resources included, for example, buffer memory, routing tables or packet scheduling processes.  Sole access to items of security such as the network resources is through Java applets, the digital signature of which is verified before allowing them to execute commands that alter

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the state of the items of security.   In case the remote server wishes to give commands to the interface device, for example, in order to alter the QoS admitted to the host, the commands must be provided with a valid digital signature.    The Java virtual machine verifies the digital signature before allowing the execution of an applet, which in turn executes the commands.   As an additional feature, the interface device may act as a temporary storage for token objects on behalf of the remote server, always when the remote server is unavailable.   Such token objects may represent charging credit values of software licenses.
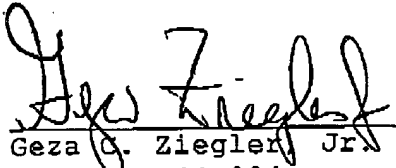
However, this is not the same as what is claimed by Applicant. Thus, claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 12 should be allowable.

Claims 2, 6, 7, and 10 are not unpatentable over Stern under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) at least by reason of their dependencies.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance.    Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.   Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

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Respectfully submitted,

Geza Q. Ziegler Jr
Reg. No. 44,004

_13 September 2005_
Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT  06824
(203) 259-1800 Ext. 134
Customer No.: 2512

### CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to (571) 273-8300 the date indicated below, addressed to the Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA  22313-1450

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